

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 13289 050403Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
SAA-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 /090 W  
-----113351 050406Z /13

R 311235Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3727  
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13289

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, IN, PK  
SUBJECT: RETIRING CHIEF AIR MARSHAL PORTRAYS PAKISTAN AIR THREAT

1. PRESS ARTICLES FEATURED IN MANY PAPERS HERE  
AUGUST 31 DETAIL PAKISTAN AIR POTENTIAL AND PARTICULARLY  
RECENT UPGRADING OF PAKISTAN AIR POWER. ARTICLES CITE  
ACQUISITION BY PAKISTAN OF CROTALE SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE,  
MATRA 550LSIR TO AIR MISSILE, RUNWAY PENETRATION BOMBS  
AND LOW LITITUDE RADAR FROM FRANCE AS WELL AS AN AD-  
VANCED VERSION OF THE MIG-19 FROM CHINA. SOME OF THE  
ARTICLES CLAIM PURCHASE OF 100 A-7' FROM US AS STILL A  
POSSIBILITY WHEREAS OTHERS MENTION POTENTIAL ACQUISITION  
OF F-5E, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS A DEEP PENETRATION STRIKE  
AIRCRAFT MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN A-7 (SIC).

2. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, ARTICLES ARE BASED ON  
INTERVIEW GIVEN AUGUST 28 BY AIR CHIEF MARSHAL WHOSE  
RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 31. PRESS ALSO INCLUDES  
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REPORTS OF AIR CHIEF MARSHAL'S FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE  
IN WHICH HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS,  
REFUSING FOR EXAMPLE TO SPECULATE ON TIMING OF DPSA  
DECISION BY INDIA. HE DID MENTION BRIEFLY PURCHASE BY  
INDIA OF DRONE IRCRAFT FROM U.S. BUT OTHERWISE STUCK TO  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS 2 AND ONE HALF YEAR TERM OF OFFICE.  
MORE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE COMMENTS WERE APPARENTLY MADE

ONLY ON A NOT-FOR-ATTRIBUTION BASIS.

3. COMMENT PRESS ORCHESTRATION APPEARS TO BE FURTHER STEP BY SUPPORTERS OF THE DPSA ACQUISITION TO PREPARE WAY FOR DPSA ANNOUNCEMENT. DESCRIPTION OF PAKISTAN AIR POTENTIAL IS INACCURATE IN SME RESPECTS, OVERSTATES CAPABILITY OF SOME EQUIPMENT, AND REPEATS MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN PUBLIC MEDIA. NEVERTHELESS, SUCH ARTICLES SERVE AN OBVIOUS POLITICAL PURPOSE, FOR DPSA BOOSTERS WITHIN GOI AND ELSEWHERE, WHO PRESUMABLY BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EVENTUAL GOI SELECTION OF DPSA WILL BE STRONGER IF PAKISTANI "THREAT" TO INDIA HAS BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.

4. WE ARE POUCHING SEVERAL OF THE ARTICLES TO NEA/INS AND ISLAMABAD.  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY BUILDUP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AIR FORCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE13289  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780360-0853  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1639397  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETIRING CHIEF AIR MARSHAL PORTRAYS PAKISTAN AIR THREAT  
**TAGS:** MPOL, IN, PK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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